

How to Use Virginia's Geographic Environmental Mapping System



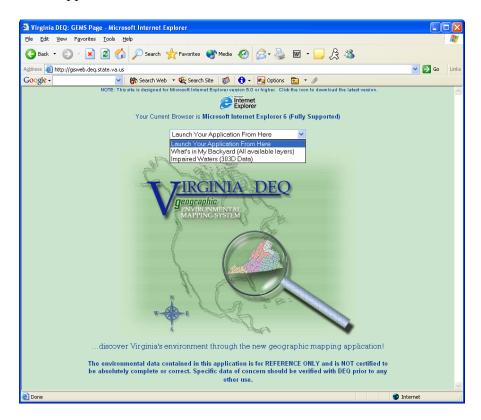
Virginia has a new, powerful system that allows citizens to view water quality data using an online mapping system. To help citizens learn how to use this system a step by step example is provided in this handout. In this example, a citizen living in Roanoke City is looking up information on Tinker Creek. Using the same methods found in this example, everyone can review the water quality data in streams throughout Virginia.

- (1) Go to the DEQ Home Page: http://www.deq.state.va.us.
- (2) Click on the words 'Waters Programs' (lower left) panel by scrolling down. Then click on "Impaired Waters Report (mid right panel).
- (3) Then click on the graphic



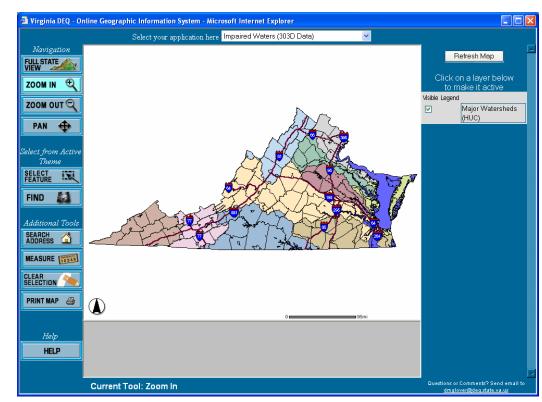
or the darkened words in the green box.

The screen below will appear.



(4) Select the Impaired Waters item from the drop down menu and the screen below will appear.

The 'ZOOM IN' button is selected upon entry to the site (default) active navigational tool. Take a moment to look at the panel on the left. These navigational and selection tools are available to you during your mapping session. Each tool must be selected (highlighted-light blue) before it will function

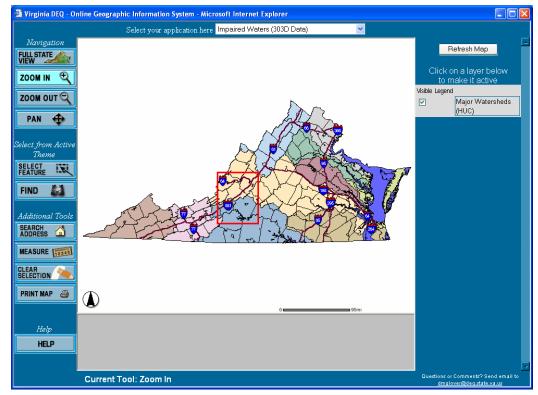


The further you zoom in the more

layers of information are available for viewing. All layers available at the current scale are listed in the right panel, along with the symbology for each layer.

The Tinker Creek watershed is used in this example. Tinker Creek is located in Botetourt and Roanoke Counties. Roanoke County is the northern most county of the counties highlighted in blue (Roanoke Basin drainage).

(5) Zoom to the area of interest, in this case the Botetourt/Roanoke County area, as shown below by holding down the left mouse button and drawing a box over the point of interest. Continue to zoom in until you reach the stream of interest. Please be patient as the map redraws with each navigational action.



(6) In this example, we have zoomed into the Tinker Creek watershed (next page). Notice there are six 'Layers that can be made Active'. The Impaired Rivers and Streams layer is default active layer. Notice that the layer name is in bold text.

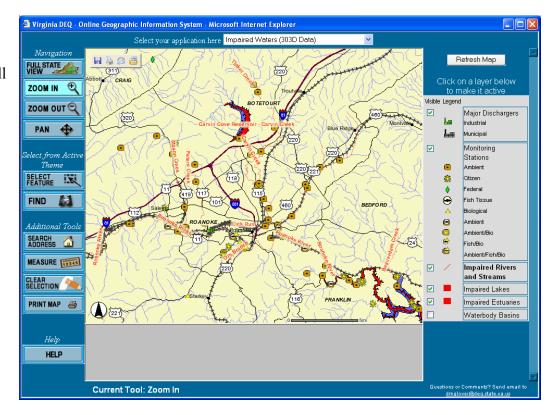
To make a layer
Visible: Turn on
(display) a layer
place a check mark
(click in) in the
square box or
turn off a layer

🗿 Virginia DEQ - Online Geographic Information System - Microsoft Internet Explorer Select your application here Impaired Waters (303D Data) Refresh Map FULL STATE VIEW Click on a layer below ZOOM IN 🔍 Visible Legend ZOOM OUT Q Major Dischargers PAN Monitoring elect from Active Theme Stations Ambient SELECT FEATURE Citizen ederal FIND **(** Fish Tissu Ambient/Bio ish/Bio Ambient/Fish/Bio MEASURE Impaired Rivers and Streams CLEAR SELECTION Impaired Lakes PRINT MAP 👙 Impaired Estuaries П Waterbody Basins Help HELP Current Tool: Zoom In

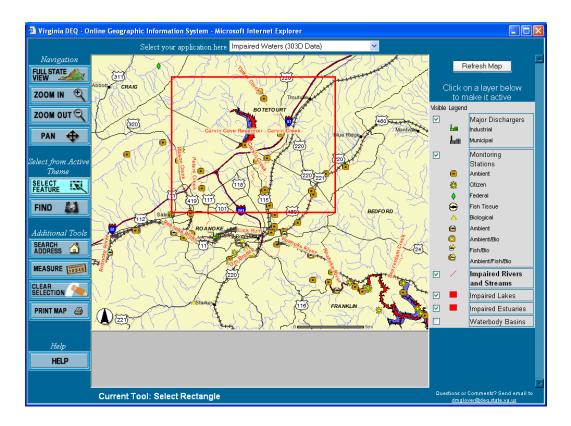
remove the check mark by clicking in the square box.

To make a layer Active: Click on the layer. The layer

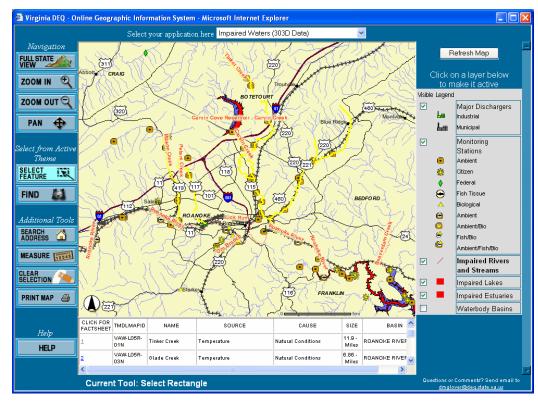
(7) As you zoom in a little further, the names of the impaired waters will appear on the map. To view the impaired segments in the Tinker Creek shed click on the 'select rectangle'.



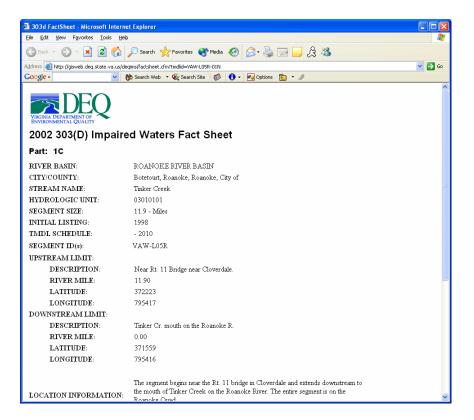
(8) Next, holding the left mouse button drag a box over the Tinker Creek watershed. This will select all of the impaired streams in the watershed.



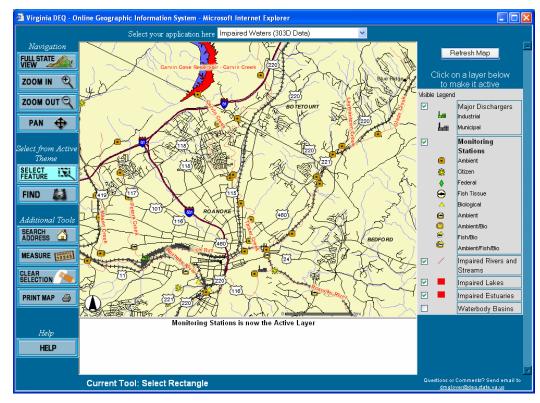
(9) To view the fact sheet for the impaired water of interest, scroll through the bottom box until you find the stream of interest. In this example, we clicked on the number 1, which will bring up a fact sheet on Tinker Creek.



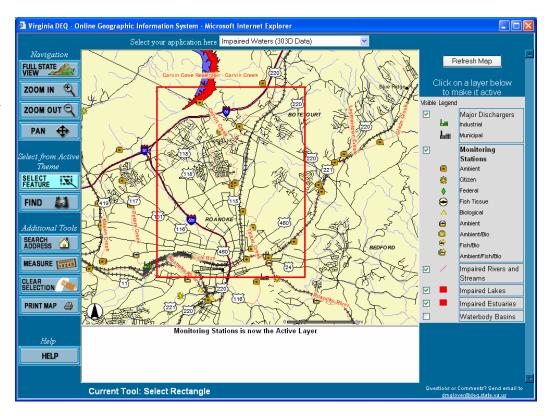
(9 cont'd) Read the fact sheet or print out a copy then close the window to review another fact sheet in the watershed.



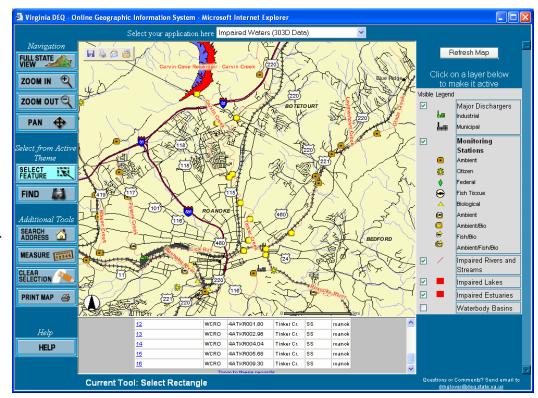
(10) To review the water quality monitoring data in the watershed, change the active layer to monitoring stations and click on the 'Refresh Map' button.



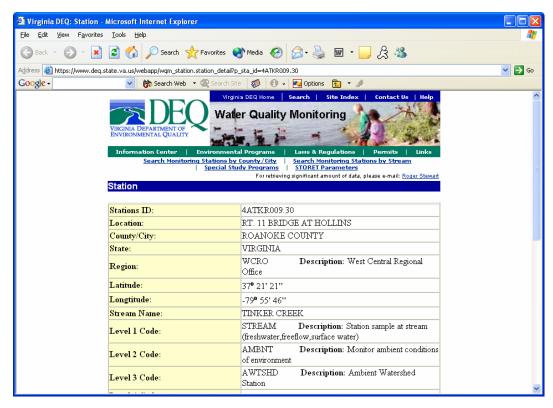
Next, holding the left mouse button drag a box over the Tinker Creek watershed. This will select all of the monitoring stations in the selection box.



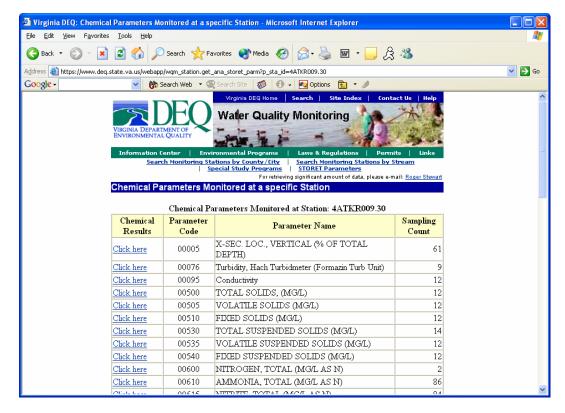
(11) To view the water quality information from each station, scroll through the bottom box until you find the station of interest. In this example, we clicked on the number 16, displaying the monitoring station on river mile 9.30 of Tinker Creek.



(12) To review the water quality data, scroll down to 'Chemical Parameters' box and click on the 'Click here' hyperlink.



(13) To view the water quality information for 'Tinker Creek', scroll down to the Fecal Coliform box and click on the 'Click here' hyperlink to see the results.



(14) Fecal Coliform test results are found under the 'Value' column.
Samples that exceed 400 cfu/100 ml violate the Commonwealth's water quality instantaneous standard.

